

REMARKS

Applicants file this Supplemental Amendment in Response to the non-final Office Action mailed June 24, 2009 (hereinafter, "June 24th Office Action"). This Supplemental Amendment fully incorporates all of the remarks and arguments of the Amendment filed on June 18, 2009 (hereinafter, "June 18th Amendment") in response to the Office Action dated March 18, 2009 (hereinafter, "March 18th Office Action"). As noted in the June 18th Amendment, Applicants realized that one of the references, *Link et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,096; hereinafter "Link"), had been inadvertently cited with an incorrect patent number in the March 18th Office Action. At that time, prior to filing the June 18th Amendment, Applicants requested that the Examiner re-issue an Office Action indicating the correct patent number for Link, such that the proper patent number would appear in the record. However, due to technical difficulties, it appears that the re-issued Office Action did not issue until June 24, 2009 (*i.e.*, the June 24th Office Action). In the meantime, Applicants had verified with Examiner Swearingen that the correct patent number for Link was U.S. Pat. No. 6,012,096 and Applicants had timely filed the June 18th Amendment in response to the March 18th Office Action. As such, Applicants believe that the June 18th Amendment is fully responsive to the June 24th Office Action. Additionally, a Notice of Allowance, dated September 3, 2009, was recently issued and indicates that it is responsive to the June 18th Amendment.

In sum, Applicants believe that the June 24th Office Action was rendered moot by the Notice of Allowance dated September 3, 2009. Further, Applicants believe that the June 18th Amendment was fully responsive to all rejections and arguments noted by the Examiner in the June 24th Office Action. As such, Applicants do not believe further amendment or argument is necessary beyond the remarks and amendments filed in the June 18th Amendment, as incorporated herein by reference.

Conclusion

This Amendment fully responds to the Office Action mailed on June 24, 2009. Still, that Office Action may contain arguments and rejections that are not directly addressed by this Amendment due to the fact that they were rendered moot in light of the preceding arguments in

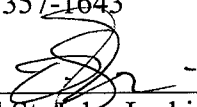
favor of patentability. Hence, the failure of this Amendment to directly address an argument raised in the Office Action should not be taken as an indication that the Applicants believe the argument has merit. Furthermore, the claims of the present application may contain other elements, not discussed in this Amendment, which are not shown, taught, or otherwise suggested by the art of record. Accordingly, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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